

REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to the rejection raised by the Office Action and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Further, the Applicants do not acquiesce to any of the Office Action rejections not particularly addressed. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The present application includes 27 claims. Of these, claims 1, 12, and 19 are independent format. As amended, claims 2 and 5-11 ultimately depend from independent claim 1, claims 14-18 ultimately depend from independent claim 12, and claims 22-27 ultimately depend from claim 19.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for noting that dependent claims 4, 13, and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. To this end, the Applicants desire to pass this application to issue as soon as possible, and thus, have amended the independent claims 1, 12, and 19 to place the application in condition for allowance.

With respect to independent claim 1, the Applicants have amended it to include the elements of claim 4 and the intervening claim 3, which as noted, would be allowable if so rewritten. Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled because their elements are now included in claim 1. Claims 2 and 5-11 ultimately depend from amended independent claim 1. Since each of the dependent claims 2 and 5-11 necessarily include the elements of the amended independent claim 1, the Applicants submit that dependent claims 2 and 5-11 are allowable for the same reasons as amended independent claim 1.

With respect to independent claim 12, the Applicants have amended it to include the elements of claim 13, which as noted, would be allowable if so rewritten. Claim 13 has been cancelled because its elements are now included in claim 12. Claims 14-20 ultimately depend from amended independent claim 12. Since each of the dependent claims 14-20 necessarily include the

elements of the amended independent claim 12, the Applicants submit that dependent claims 14-20 are allowable for the same reasons as amended independent claim 12.

With respect to independent claim 19, the Applicants have amended it to include elements similar to the elements added to amended independent claim 21 and intervening claim 20, which as noted, would be allowable if so rewritten. Claims 20 and 21 have been cancelled because their elements are now included in claim 19. Claims 22-27 ultimately depend from amended independent claim 19. As such, the Applicants submit that dependent claims 22-27 are allowable for the same reasons as amended independent claim 19 since each of these dependent claims necessarily include the elements of the amended independent claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants submit that claims 1-2, 5-12, 14-19, and 22-27 are in good and proper form for allowance, and thus, respectfully request the Examiner to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would otherwise expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 312-913-3304.

Respectfully submitted,

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